

<b>Title</b>	<b>Mycoplasma and Chlamydia Specimen Collection and Transport</b>
<b>Specimen Requirements</b>	1. Nasopharyngeal/oropharyngeal swabs, aspirates or washes, bronchoalveolar lavage, tracheal aspirates or washes, and sputum specimens are acceptable for PCR.
<b>Sampling Materials</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transport media - appropriate bacterial or viral transport media - available commercially. Some require refrigeration, others do not - check package insert.</li> <li>2. Swab - Swab material should be synthetic, i.e., rayon, polyester, or Dacron. Calcium alginate or charcoal-impregnated swabs should not be used, nor should wood-shaft swabs.</li> <li>3. Sterile containers and collection materials for aspirate, wash, BAL, and sputum specimens.</li> <li>4. Cold packs or dry ice.</li> <li>5. Shipping boxes/containers with appropriate shipping labels.</li> </ol>
<b>Procedural Notes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be sure to properly label the specimen tube with at least the patient's name and date of collection.</li> <li>2. Check the expiration date on the transport media tube to ensure product is acceptable and will continue to be acceptable once received at the ISDH laboratory.</li> <li>3. After collection, all specimens should be stored at refrigerator temperature (2-8C) until shipped. If longer storage is required, place specimens in a -70C freezer. Avoid freeze-thaw cycles, which can be lethal to bacteria.</li> <li>4. Complete a request form for each specimen with the following information: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Name, birth date, race, and sex of patient</li> <li>b. Specimen type and date of specimen collection</li> <li>c. Date of illness onset</li> <li>d. Suspected disease agent</li> <li>e. Complete patient history, travel history, and other relevant information</li> <li>f. Submitting facility information - facility name, address, phone number, fax number, contact name and email address (if available).</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>Shipping Instructions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wrap the labeled specimen container with absorbent material and place in a biohazard specimen bag. Be sure to package each patient's specimens individually to avoid cross-contamination.</li> <li>2. Place the requisition form in the side pocket of the biohazard bag. Never place the requisition form in with the specimen in case the specimen leaks during transit. If the specimen bag does not have 2 compartments, place the paperwork in a separate zip-lock bag.</li> <li>3. Place the specimen(s) in a styrofoam container with sufficient cold packs to maintain 4C during shipment. For swabs, washes, aspirates, BAL or sputum, if needed, dry ice can also be used if the specimen is frozen and/or transport time may be longer than 24 hours. If dry ice is used, do not form an airtight seal on the styrofoam container because dry ice releases carbon dioxide gas.</li> <li>4. Place the styrofoam container into a cardboard shipping box, close lid, and seal.</li> <li>5. Ship or transport by courier, the box compliant with DOT and IATA.</li> </ol>
<b>Reporting and TAT</b>	